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INFO RUEHMU/WESTERN HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS DIPL POSTS PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0083
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0145
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 0097
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0013
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0106
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY MINSK PRIORITY 0010
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0183
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 0255
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0048
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI PRIORITY 0014
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0221
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J2/J3/J5// PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHSUN/USUN ROME IT PRIORITY 0017
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0004
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 001124

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR WHA/FO DAS MADSEN
DEPT FOR WHA/CEN KRAAIMORE
DEPT FOR EUR/RUS
DEPT FOR USOAS
STATE PASS TO USAID/LAC -- CARDENAS AND BATTLE
COMMERCE FOR SEC GUTIERREZ
NSC FOR FISK AND GARCIA
SOUTHCOM FOR FPA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/03/2018

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SUBJECT: NICARAGUA RECOGNIZES INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH OSSETIA AND ABKHAZIA

REF: A. MANAGUA 1112 (NOTAL)

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 91894

[1](#)C. SECSTATE 89769

Classified By: Ambassador Robert Callahan for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: On September 2, during a late night speech to commemorate the 29th anniversary of the Nicaraguan Army, President Daniel Ortega declared that Nicaragua would back the Russian government of Vladimir Putin, and recognize the independence of Georgia's separatist enclaves of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. He accused the U.S. and NATO of seeking to "encircle" the Russian Republic. He also called Georgia's recent military action "pre-meditated" and compared it to a Nazi blitzkreig. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (U) During a 45-minute, late night speech on September 2, marking the 29th Anniversary of Nicaragua's Army, Daniel Ortega announced that, "The Government of Nicaragua recognizes the independence of the Republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and we are in full agreement with the Government of Russia's position that the conflict can be ended through dialogue with European countries." Ortega then launched into an attack against the U.S. and NATO, stating that, "the member countries of NATO are interested in closing a military circle around the Russian Republic," and that "the peace of the world has been threatened by the power-hungry, hegemonic politics that have arisen since the Soviet Union disappeared." Ortega then asserted that NATO had "used

Georgia in a military operation for a premeditated, lightning-fast attack typical of the kind launched by the Nazi army." Finally, Ortega emphasized that Georgia's attack had left thousands dead and wounded, but this had not been reported by "the mass media dominated by global capitalism."

13. (C) COMMENT: According to international media reporting, Nicaragua is the first country, after Russia, to recognize the "independence" of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Ortega's action comes less than a week after we delivered the demarches on the Georgia-Russia conflict to the Foreign Ministry (REFS B & C) that had urged against such a step. Ortega's declaration is disappointing, but not unexpected, given the nostalgia for Cold War rhetoric and politics on his part. This contrarian and unhelpful stance may also be a harbinger of what is in store from incoming UNGA president-elect and former Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who likely shares this world view and mindset.
CALLAHAN